

**NEW HAVEN, CONN.  
FEDERAL BUILDING**  
CORNERSTONE LAID JUNE 4, 1914

ADDRESSES BY

**HON. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT  
HON. SIMEON E. BALDWIN  
HON. WILLIAM PEABODY MALBURN  
HON. FRANK J. RICE  
COL. ISAAC M. ULLMAN**





ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE LAY-  
ING OF CORNER STONE OF THE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, IN NEW  
HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,  
JUNE 4, 1914

Address by Col. Isaac M. Ullman, President of the New  
Haven Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman  
of the occasion

*Fellow Citizens:*

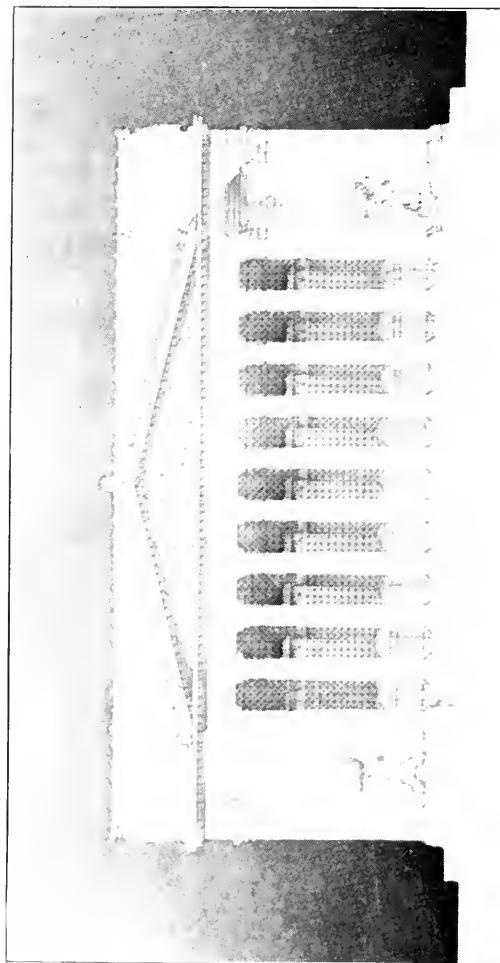
We have assembled here to-day to witness the institution of a landmark in the history of New Haven. It is an event that typifies, among other things, the awakening a few years ago of a civic pride in the citizens of New Haven, which they had not before often manifested and which, ever lying dormant, needed but the proper inspiration and impulse to bring it into full life. When the subject of the necessity of a new federal building for New Haven once became apparent to our citizens, there immediately arose a body of public-spirited men who determined that what New Haven needed it should have. And imbued with this spirit and at their own time and at their own expense, there journeyed to the Nation's Capitol a large, influential and enthusiastic body of our citizens, to place before the Committee of Congress not only the urgent need of a proper building for our city, to meet the necessities of the ever increasing business passing through the postoffice, but also to urge upon such committee the right of a community of the size and importance of New Haven, a city which is the seat of a great university, and to which come learned men from all over the world, to possess a federal building which should be representative of the mighty Nation which is erecting it.

And well did this committee do its work and much do we owe them for their unselfish efforts.

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FACADE OF FEDERAL BUILDING

*From drawing by James Gamble Rogers, architect.*



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But however much each member of this committee performed to the best of his power and opportunity the work in hand, it would have been without avail had it not been for the splendid co-operation and help received from those whom this body of New Haven citizens succeeded in interesting in the cause.

And in my brief reference to the men that thus aided in the success of this enterprise, I must first place the name of our dear, lamented fellow townsman and friend, the Hon. N. D. Sperry, who was then in his last days as a Congressman. And this fact, I am sure, induced many of the members of Congress who might otherwise have opposed the project, to vote for it as a memorial to one who, by reason of his many years of service



**The First Land Deal**

in the Congress of the United States, had made every one his friend.

Nor should we forget the splendid help, received at a most critical time in the progress of this project, from the Hon. Morgan G. Bulkeley, who with the aid of Senator Frank B. Brandegee succeeded in carrying the bill over the dangerous Senate shoals. For here our greatest danger lay.

And then, too, we should not forget in our thanks the Hon. John Q. Tilson, the successor of Mr. Sperry, who devoted so much time and energy in the success of the work.

And then, too, also Congressman Thomas L. Reilly, the successor of Congressman Tilson, who although coming into office

after the project had been passed by Congress, should not be forgotten in the making up of our roll of honor, for the good work that he has since done in aid of this project.

And while our thanks go out to the gentlemen that I have named, for securing from the government the authority to erect this building, we should not forget the splendid loyalty of two of our own citizens, viz: Governor Rollin S. Woodruff and the late Warren A. Spalding, who made this excellent site available by the pledging of their own money and credit, at much risk and at a critical time in the history of this project, and in which pledge other splendid citizens of New Haven later joined. This act upon the part of these gentlemen was one that should serve as an example of civic loyalty which should not soon be forgotten by our people.

Gentlemen, this is an historic occasion. It marks an epoch in the history of our community. May the lesson in civic loyalty which the citizens who took part in the creation of this work have shown, ever serve to keep awake in the breast of all a love for our community which shall always respond to the demand of the public interests. And may this noble structure, when completed, continue to stand as an object lesson to generations yet unborn of the dignity and power and greatness of our beloved country.

It is now my great pleasure, gentlemen, to introduce to you an honored citizen of New Haven; the representative of all of the people of the State; a man whose intellectual qualities are not dimmed with age; a man whom all our citizens admire and respect. Need I say to you that I refer to the Governor of the State, the Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin.

### Address of Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, Governor of Connecticut

Governor Baldwin spoke in part as follows:

This piece of land on which we are now gathered is slipping away from the State of Connecticut. It is to become the site of important activities of the government of the United States, and that calls for a cession of the State sovereignty over it, at least in part.

But the State has been glad to make the cession. Almost nothing means so much to everybody as a proper mail service. That is a task which the State would be utterly incompetent to perform. It calls for a system nationwide, and part of one larger still—that is, worldwide.

The post offices of the United States have been one of the great agencies in promoting the brotherhood of nations. In their interest, many years ago, the United States joined with the leading countries of the world in devising what was called a universal postal union. This was to be a world legislature to regulate the carriage of mails from one country to another. Whatever this union determines on, before it can take full and permanent effect, has to be ratified by all the powers represented in it; and it always is. Every five years this postal union congress meets at one or another of the capitals of the civilized world. It has been the beginning of Tennyson's "Parliament of Man."

Here, too, is to be erected, in close connection with the post office, a temple of justice.

A building for what contributes to such high purposes ennobles its site. In a great city like this,—and we have a right to call New Haven great, ranking as it now does the thirty-sixth in the list of American cities,—a new post office and court house ought to be of commanding architectural design. This will be. It ought, in order to have that solidity and splendor that such a building should possess, to be of marble; and this, too, it will be. It ought to face the Green, which for nearly three hundred years has been the center of our civic life, and so it will.

Speaking for the State of Connecticut, I welcome the erection of this new monument upon the line between the sovereignty of the State and the sovereignty of the United States. The welfare of the States and that of the Federal Government are inseparably connected, and the people of Connecticut are proud that they form also part of the greater whole—the people of the United States.

*Remarks by the Chairman:*

The United States Government is ably represented on this occasion by the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. We are honored in that the President of the United States and the Secre-

tary of the Treasury were anxious to send to us a high officer of the government. Secretary McAdoo has been steadfast and helpful to New Haven in the matter of promoting the speedy progress of the plans for this building. It gives me pleasure to introduce the Hon. William Peabody Malburn, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

### Address by Hon. William Peabody Malburn, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

*Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens:*

While I regret with you that circumstances have prevented the Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. William Gibbs McAdoo, from appearing in person, yet I feel very keenly the pleasure of visiting your beautiful city, of meeting with you, and of expressing to you the pleasure that the United States Government feels in contributing the magnificent structure whose corner stone you are to-day laying towards the further beautification of your city.

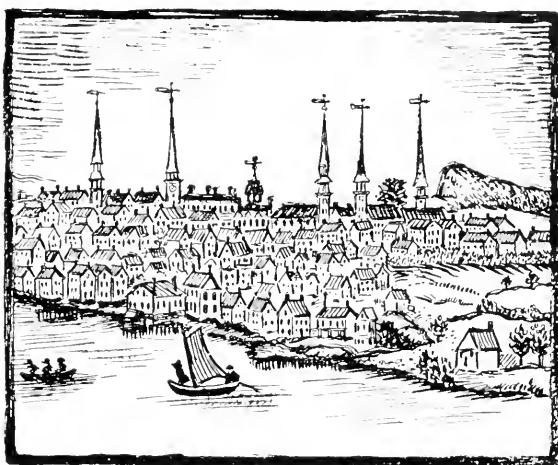
The Federal Government has engaged in the real estate business for over a century, and there are to-day scattered over this great country hundreds of monuments in the form of public buildings, which while actually standing in the name of the United States and occupied by its officials, are in a broader sense the property of the people, for whose benefit they exist.

Your own fair city has borne an important part in the history of federal public buildings. Up to the year 1813 the Government had acquired but seven properties, and the importance of New Haven in these early days is demonstrated by the fact that one of the first of these seven buildings was located in your city in the year 1799. Thus, early in the history of the country was the importance of this city impressed upon the Federal Government, and due recognition afforded.

But New Haven did not rest content with its early achievements, and with the energy so characteristic of the people of this country, and especially of your own beautiful State, the city outgrew the original federal quarters and by its very growth and importance demanded further recognition on the part of the Federal Government. So in 1855 the old building was sold and an Act of Congress was secured providing for a custom house

and post office. Upon the site thus authorized a building was erected at a cost of \$158,600, and since February 14, 1860, it has been the home of representatives of the United States Government, who have been so fortunate as to dwell in your midst.

But you are a progressive city and you have swept forward with such irresistible force in the commercial life of the country, that the Federal Government has again seen the necessity of responding to the call for larger and better quarters for its various activities, and has gladly authorized the erection of a building more in keeping with its own dignity and the enterprise



New Haven in 1786.

of the community. And, in 1910, authority was obtained for the building whose corner stone we lay to-day, with a limit of cost of \$1,200,000, which limit was raised in 1913 by \$400,000. A comparison of the cost of this building with that erected over half a century ago affords undeniable proof of the consistent and remarkable growth of your city. And the Government is proud, and I believe you will be proud, of the beautiful structure which within a short time will grace this community; a building architecturally beautiful, for which the credit rightfully belongs to that master architect, Mr. James Gamble Rogers; a building commodious enough to care for the needs of the Government; a building which when completed should be second to none.

The presence of a federal building in any city of our land is a visible evidence of the Federal Government. Engrossed as one becomes in his more intimate local and State affairs, there is a lack of close connection on the part of the public generally with the National Government. No one, however, can see in his city a handsome and substantial public building dedicated exclusively to the federal business without a quickening of his pride and patriotism and a realization of the power and importance of the country to which he has sworn allegiance.

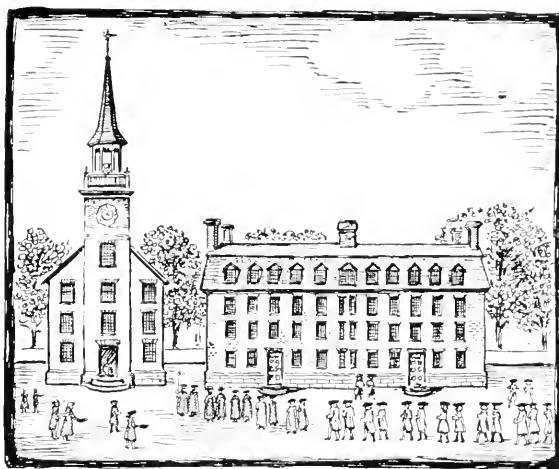
In this building will be localized the great functions of the Federal Government, and here, your city and State are brought in touch with and made parts of the whole country, and, indeed, the whole world. Here is the custom house with its exportations and importations; the post office with its millions of pieces of incoming and outgoing mail. Besides these, within its walls will be found the United States courts, dispensing justice to all, and the various field services of the Treasury Department and the Departments of Agriculture and Justice.

This beautiful building when completed will symbolize the material structure of the Republic, built upon a rock, designed by highly trained minds, constructed by the united efforts of all sorts and conditions of workmen out of materials brought from all parts of the world. Some rare and of fine quality and others coarser and cheaper, but all equally necessary to the completed structure.

Well may you be proud of this beautiful building, which typifies, as I have stated, the material structure of the Republic; and you may well be proud of the material success which the United States has achieved, but let us not forget that it is not the only success to the achievement of which we should aspire. A people whose progress is limited to the attainment of material success only will not hold a high rank among the nations.

The charge has been made that the American's chief aim is materialistic, and that the pursuit of the almighty dollar is his controlling passion. But this charge is not substantiated, and is based on a superficial knowledge of our country and our people. Everywhere in the United States are evidences of the fact that we are not purely a materialistic people. We have our idealistic side. Here in your city is one of the strongest of these evidences. The noble university which is the pride of

New Haven is a monument to ideals and a witness that we as a nation are not entirely given over to materialism. This university may well typify the idealistic side of our national character, as contrasted with the materialistic of which this building will be a symbol. And it cannot be said that the ideals of the Republic are being sacrificed to materialism when this great university invites to its bosom even one who has occupied the highest position which the Republic has to bestow and one who is amply fitted and destined to fill an important place in the great work which has always kept Yale University in the front rank of the world's institutions of learning.

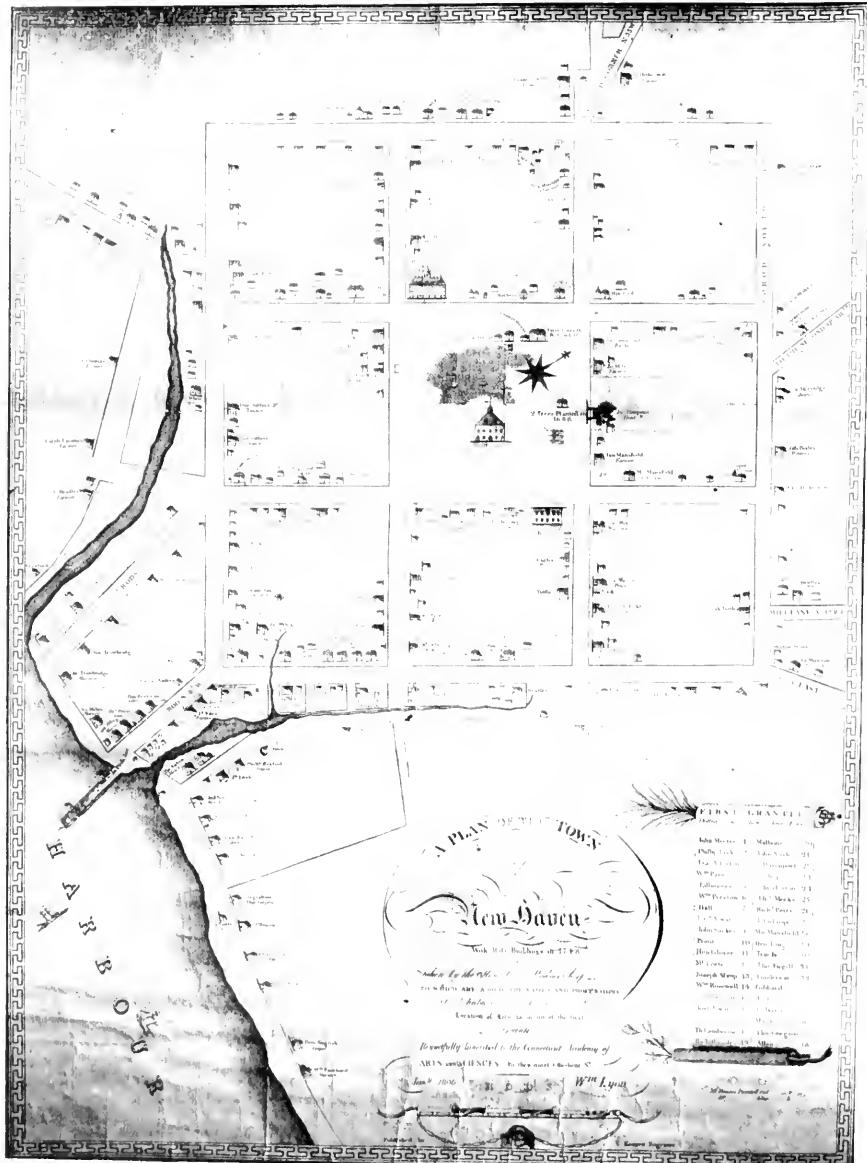


**The Homespun Class of '69**

Let us congratulate ourselves then that high ideals continue to be honored among us. Who can doubt that back of the efficient, patriotic and common sense administration of our present Chief Executive there lies the highest ideals? One has but to follow the course of his thoughts and the trend of his actions, whether or not he agrees with his political beliefs, to be convinced of the lofty idealism of President Woodrow Wilson.

*Remarks by the Chairman:*

It is fitting that we hear a few words from our honored mayor in behalf of the municipality. You all know Mayor Frank J. Rice.



FIRST TOWN PLAN OF NEW HAVEN



## Remarks by Hon. Frank J. Rice, Mayor of New Haven

*Mr. President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Gentlemen:*

It is a great honor and privilege for me to represent the city at the laying of the corner stone of this new federal building, and I heartily congratulate the officers of the Chamber of Commerce on the progress that has been made toward the completion of the building. They performed a valuable service to the city in taking the initiative in securing a site and in directing the movement to open negotiations with the Federal Government for the building. The delegation which went to Washington to urge activity on the part of Congress rendered timely assistance towards securing and pushing to completion the plans for the building, and if it had not been for the activity and interest of the President of the United States, who is with us to-day as speaker at the laying of this corner stone, I do not believe that we should be here this afternoon.

The completion of the new federal building will fill a long-felt want in this city, and I trust that the same energy and activity that has marked the progress on the building to date will continue until the last stone is laid and the handsome structure is open to the public.

*Remarks by the Chairman:*

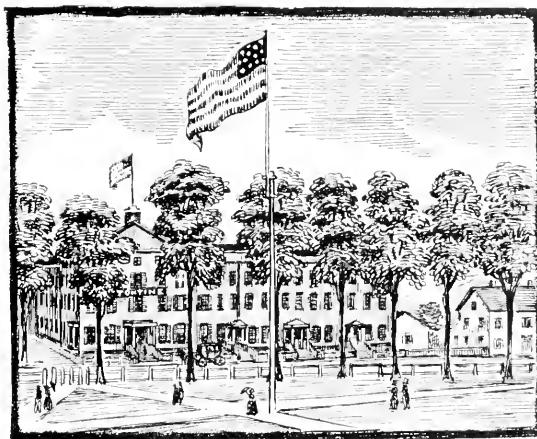
Whatever the Congressmen and the Senators from Connecticut might have been willing to do and did do, to secure the passage of the bill authorizing the erection of this building; whatever enthusiasm our own citizens may have had; whatever efforts they may have put forth; all would have failed in the last analysis had it not been for the fact that there was in the office of the Presidency of the United States at the time a gentleman who loved the New Haven of his college days not less than he expected to love the New Haven of his later professorship. And it was the personal and official influence of this great citizen of our country that carried the project into the realm of successful accomplishment.

And so, gentlemen, it is but fitting that to this honored and respected citizen of our country and beloved resident of New Haven, the Hon. William H. Taft, should go the honor of laying the corner stone of this structure, which he so earnestly helped to bring into being.

And now, Mr. Taft, I hand to you this trowel with which to perform the work and I am sure that when the corner stone is set, it will set as squarely and truly as those ethical and moral truths which you, in your own character, so fully exemplify.

### Address by Hon. William Howard Taft, President of the United States, 1909-1913

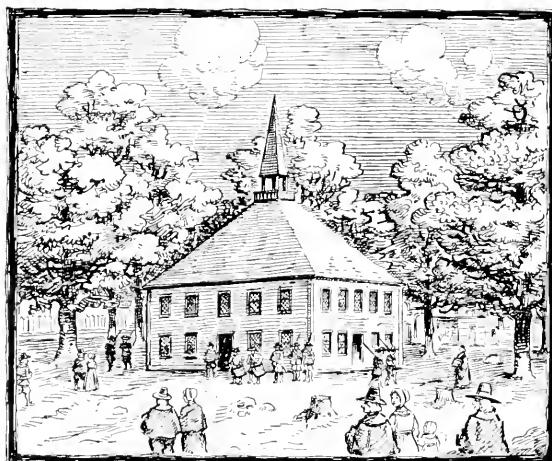
The mere dedication of a post office building in an ordinary city, on an ordinary site, would properly arouse the interest of those who were to use the post office and who would wish to have it in a convenient place and sufficiently equipped to enable the post office department to discharge its function well, but I doubt if in such a case it would have been thought important enough to suggest any ceremony or public meeting. This occasion is of different and higher import.



*The Tontine Coffee House*

The site itself has a historical significance in that the first New Haven post office was established in the year 1831 in the basement of the Tontine Hotel built in 1828. But far more than this, our meeting to-day welcomes the construction of this beautiful edifice here facing the city Green as a step in fulfilling a city plan for New Haven, the first city plan ever conceived

in this country. There is certainly no city in the United States, and I think I might say, in the world, that has a centrally located, formal public square or civic center as large, as the city of New Haven. Of course there are parks in cities of larger area than this square, but what I mean to say is that there is in this country no city with a public square centrally located and originally designed as part of an organic city plan like this open space that we have before us. In the early records it is spoken of as the "market place" and the "public square," and it is rich with historical reminiscence. Without having title to



**ye First Meetyng House**

a foot of the land, three churches stand on its surface; Center Church, the United Church and Trinity Church, all built during the War of 1812, and forming a group of buildings unsurpassed of their kind in the country. Center Church is the fourth house of worship on substantially the same site of the First Ecclesiastical Society in New Haven, organized in 1639, a year after the square was surveyed and laid out. The United Church replaced an earlier church built in 1770 on the same site. Trinity Church replaced an earlier house of worship which stood on Church Street near Chapel. These three beautiful buildings standing before us to-day, have come down to us as a living evidence of the public service to which the churches were devoted

and which they continue to-day, and as an indication of the fundamental relation of morality and religion to useful government.

The city of New Haven, including the Green, was laid out in July, 1638, by John Brockett, surveyor, the friend and associate of the Rev. John Davenport, the first New Haven minister, and of Governor Theophilus Eaton, the successful shipping merchant and wealthy friend of Davenport, whose dream and purpose was to found here on the New Haven plain by our spacious harbor, a great commercial city. Governor Eaton, therefore, insisted, as is supposed, on a public square much larger than would have been necessary for the commercial necessities of a city of the present size of New Haven. It is due to Eaton's realized anticipation of New Haven's commercial importance near the harbor that we have this great boon and unusual municipal asset in our great square.

The Green has so well fulfilled its original purpose of providing a center for the life of the city, that the history of New Haven is the history of the Green. For nearly three hundred years the current of New Haven life has swept over the square. It has been a political and civic forum, a religious and ecclesiastical arena, a field of military parades and councils, a seat of judicial tribunals, an educational campus, a market place, a burial place and a playground. We are to-day but rededicating it to its original purposes as a civic center. Mr. Blake says that since the Green was first set apart in 1638 as a market place, it has been under the jurisdiction of nine distinct governments, including the Royal government of Great Britain, the English Commonwealth, the United States government under the Confederation and the present national government under the Federal Constitution. It seems strange to us, but here on the Green the accessions of Charles the Second, William and Mary, George the First, George the Second and George the Third, were formally proclaimed to the beating of drums, with royal salutes and cries of "God Save the King." Here we must not forget the Regicides, Goffe, Whalley and Dixwell, who trod the Green and whose names are preserved in three of our city streets. The bones of Dixwell lie back of Center Church, and not far away lie the bones of Governor Theophilus Eaton. Somewhere under the Green, presumably near the liberty pole, lies

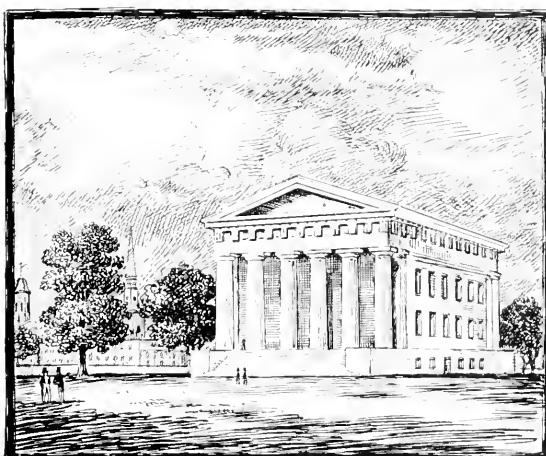
the dust of Capt. Isaac Allerton, a Pilgrim on the Mayflower, and the "Father of American Commerce."

Washington looked upon the Green when on his way to assume command of the federal troops in 1775 at Cambridge; he stopped over Sunday at Beer's Tavern on the site of the present hotel at the corner of College and Chapel Streets. Lafayette in 1824 reviewed the Foot Guards, the Horse Guards and the Grays on the Green.

Admiral Foote lived in a house on Chapel Street facing the Green. Roger Sherman, the great patriot, jurist and constructive statesman, the first Mayor of New Haven, and the first President of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, lived near the corner of College and Chapel Streets. Here in offices facing the Green, members of the historic Ingersoll family continuously practiced law for over 160 years. James Hillhouse, the Revolutionary patriot and treasurer of Yale College for fifty years, was the prime mover in planting on the Green and elsewhere in our streets, the elm trees which have made New Haven renowned as "The City of Elms." Yale College received its charter in 1701 from a meeting of the General Assembly in a building on the Green; in the old State House on the Green the City Government was organized in 1784. In the same building, the New Haven Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1794. "In 1701," said Mr. Blake in his "Chronicles of New Haven Green," "New Haven became a co-capital with Hartford and the General Assembly commenced holding its October sessions here. In 1719 the first State House in New Haven was built on the northwest corner of the Green adjoining the County House." In 1763 a new State House was erected on a site between the sites now occupied by Center and Trinity Churches about opposite where the Phelps Gateway now stands. Most of us remember this building in the classical style erected from designs by Ithiel Town. Its south portico provided an admirable site for public receptions. President Jackson was given a rousing reception there in 1833, President Polk in 1847 and President Buchanan in 1858. In 1852 on this same portico Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, was received by one of the greatest and most enthusiastic multitudes that ever assembled on the Green for a like occasion. This building was demolished in 1889. It was standing when I was in college and makes the background for

the first class picture of my class. The first structure on the Green was the stocks and whipping post. That instrument of correction was followed, as the records show, by at least eight churches, three state houses, several school houses, jails and some other buildings of less importance.

And now facing the Green giving forth all these great historic memories, we have a beautiful Court House, a beautiful Public Library building, the vine-clad College Street façade of Yale



**The Last State House**

University; and we are dedicating to-day a building which will evidence the majesty and usefulness of the United States Government and will add significance and importance to this wonderful municipal center.

Opposite the new post office and with it facing the Green, stands the City Hall built in 1862, the official residence of the municipality of New Haven. If we are wise we shall acquire for our city the additional land needed and reconstruct that home of the city fathers, so as to make it worthy of its association with the dignified and beautiful seats of federal and county authority. Congress has recognized the unique character of this site, and has given large additional appropriations because of its surroundings and the memories that crowd upon one as he looks out upon the Green.

In the early days the Green was used for military as well as civil purposes, and down to 1858 was used as a playground for the town boys and the college students. For many years the marks were preserved upon the Green of a famous broad jump made during his college days by Captain Nathan Hale.

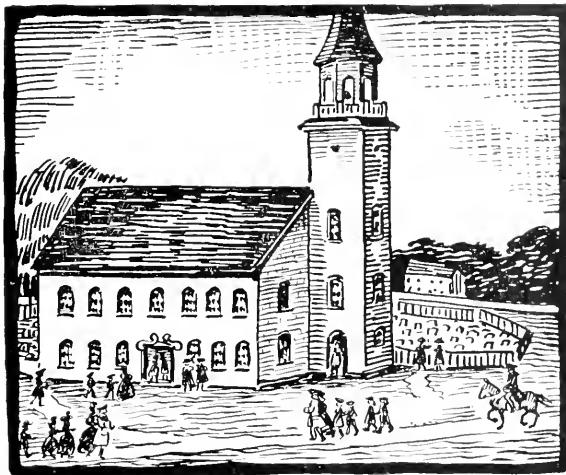
This allusion to the supreme youthful hero and martyr of the Revolutionary War betrays the reliable source of my review of the history of the Green as Mr. George Dudley Seymour, who has done much to instill in this generation the gratitude we should feel to the patriot spy, and whose effective work in the proper development and preservation of New Haven's civic beauty and prosperity, everyone knows.

Accompanying this sincere and just appreciation of our most valuable city treasure, I think it not inappropriate to utter a note of warning against all the plans which are prompted by thoughtless persons unappreciative of the historic significance of the Green and its value as a civic center, who would in any way curtail its superficial area or appropriate its beautiful expanse to inappropriate purpose. The suggestion of waiting stations to be put upon the Green is out of all keeping with its sacred character, its beauty, its convenience for public gatherings, and its value as an open breathing space in the heart of the city. The comfort of the people in this regard can be promoted in some other way. The idea of curtailing the Green to widen Church Street would destroy the original New Haven plan and would seriously impair the commanding position of your County Court House. We ought to congratulate ourselves that the suggestions made only so lately as 1907 that the Public Library be put on the Green back of Center Church was not carried out. The proposition to widen Chapel Street by cutting the Green back to Trinity Church would destroy the symmetry of the Green itself in more ways than one.

You will do well also to arrest all propositions looking toward any special uses of your Public Square which will either disfigure it or prevent its use and enjoyment by all classes of your citizens. You should therefore oppose any plan to widen Temple Street as it passes through the Green for the purpose of providing a parking space for automobiles. Owners of automobiles should have no privileges on the Green not extended to all classes of citizens. To grant to owners of automobiles

special privileges would form a precedent for granting express wagons, hucksters and others, special places for their vehicles on the Green.

Recent English and American legislation is against the erection of unduly tall buildings on sites facing public squares and parks, on the ground that excessively high buildings exclude light and air from such places and so prevent the full use and enjoyment of them by the public at large. You were wise in



YE NEW BRICK MEETING HOUSE, 1757-1812

going to the legislature last year and securing the passage of an act for the creation of the Municipal Art Commission, which has been given the power of limiting the heights of all future buildings on sites facing the Green.

The ever present danger to the preservation of the integrity of the Green is that in our daily association with it, we fail to realize how great an advantage it is to the city and fail to see that other less favored cities over our broad land are spending millions of dollars to carve out municipal centers which do not compare with New Haven Green in size, location and, of course, not in its rich and great traditions. Our visitors appreciate the Green more than we do. It would be a reproach to us not to guard our legacy well. Just consider that to-day we have in

New Haven Green a public square sixteen acres in extent that has been handed down to us in exactly its present form two hundred and seventy-six years. Consider again that this Green is the central feature of the oldest existing city plan in the United States.

Let us, therefore, highly resolve here at dedication of this addition to New Haven's beauty as a city, that the Green shall always remain sacred, protected from offense and immune from invasion by the utilitarian reformer with no imagination and no appreciation of the exalting character of historical association.

In an oration delivered thirty-five years ago by Dr. Bacon, he said:

"The entire plan, from river to river, and from the harbor to the guardian mountains, may be crowded with the city's growth and wealth; the number of inhabitants may be doubled and redoubled in successive generations; surrounding towns and villages may be enriched and beautified by the over-flowing prosperity of the city; but, till New Haven shall have lost its identity, this Public Square will be its heart, the center of its life. Call it a park, and it is too diminutive to be respectable; but as a Forum, an Athenian Agora, a central place of concourse, its capabilities are magnificent."

*Line cuts by Courtesy of Mr. George J. Bassett*

*Maps by Courtesy of Mr. George D. Seymour.*



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